

The foregoing implies, at the least, that some of the characters attributed to *excelsa* by Mayr may have been based upon the holotype's having been immature or wrongly sexed or both. Nevertheless, *excelsa* is probably a valid race. As Mayr noted, *excelsa* is paler ventrally than *bougainvillei*: the holotype of *excelsa* is pale Cinnamon to Cream Color below; the 1953 bird is Cream Color to virtually white; *bougainvillei* are uniformly deep Cinnamon. Dorsally, adult females of the 2 populations appear to differ as follows: the crown and nape of *bougainvillei* is uniformly Tawny, that of the specimen of *excelsa* is paler, especially on the nape where the bird is Cinnamon. The back of *bougainvillei* is Olive-Green suffused with Tawny, that of the *excelsa* is nearly pure Olive-Green. To our knowledge no specimens of adult male *excelsa* exist, and comparison of the males of the two races must await further collecting on Guadalcanal.

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Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* and Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* in Zambia

by P. B. Taylor

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During the period November 1978 to November 1979 I recorded 2 occurrences of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* and one of Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* at localities in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. These are the first reported occurrences of Nearctic vagrants in Zambia.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. The first bird was seen at 06.00 hours on 12 November 1978 at Kafubu Lake, Ndola (13°02'S, 28°35'E). The lake is artificially dammed and is the main water supply for the city of Ndola. At the end of the dry season the water level falls rapidly and much mud is exposed at the point where the Kafubu River enters the lake. This area attracts large numbers of southward-moving Palaearctic waders and it was here that the Pectoral Sandpiper was seen, feeding alongside Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* in wet mud and shallow water with grass tufts. It was later seen with Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Marsh Sandpiper *T. stagnatilis*, Little Stint *Calidris minuta* and Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Close observations were made in good light until about 08.00 hours and the bird was photographed.

I am satisfied that this bird was a Pectoral Sandpiper and not a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, the breast pattern, leg colour, tail and call serving to distinguish it from Sharp-tailed. The breast had a strong buff wash and heavy dark streaks, contrasting with the pale unmarked chin, and

the breast pattern ended abruptly to give white lower breast, belly and under-tail coverts. The legs were ochre and were rather short, this feature making the bird easy to pick out among the taller-standing Wood and Curlew Sandpipers. The rump and centre of the tail were very dark, the outer tail feathers were paler brown and the sides of the rump were white. The dark central tail feathers were a little longer than the outer ones. The call was a low "prrrrt", sometimes repeated. The observed plumage features agree with those given in Prater *et al.* (1977) for first-year birds. The bird was found at the same locality later on the same day by C. Carter, who confirms identification, but was not present that evening and was not seen again. Colour transparencies have been examined by R. J. Dowsett who (*in litt.*) confirms identification.

The second Pectoral Sandpiper was present at Makoma Sewage Ponds, Luanshya (13°07'S, 28°22'E) at 11.00 hours on 24 November 1979. It was first seen at the edge of a tank feeding in shallow water with grass on a hard substrate, and was alongside Wood Sandpiper. Later it rested on dried cut grass on the short-grassed track between two tanks. It appeared tired, was unafraid and was unwilling to fly, allowing approach to within 12 m. When active it fed continuously, picking food from the water's edge. It was closely observed for 45 minutes in excellent conditions. The bird was in most features almost exactly similar to the 1978 bird, though the less markedly pale edges to the upperside feathers and the rather greyish wash on the breast suggested that it may have been an adult. I returned to the ponds at 15.00 hours with R. Casalis de Pury, who confirmed the identification. The bird by this time appeared rested and refreshed; it was much less approachable and flew more readily. It was photographed and the colour transparencies show plumage features well, including tail and rump in flight and the longer dark central tail feathers. R. Casalis de Pury confirms identification.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*. At 18.00 hours on 21 January 1979 I found a Lesser Yellowlegs at Kanini Sewage Works, Ndola (12°59'S, 28°38'E). The settling ponds at Kanini are small, have natural banks and normally hold drying sludge, only occasionally being completely flooded. Such habitat attracts good numbers of wintering Wood and Green Sandpipers *Tringa ochropus*, Little Stint and Ruff. When first seen, the Lesser Yellowlegs was wading in the only flooded tank alongside Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank *T. nebularia* and Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhynchos*. The bird was present continuously throughout the remainder of January and irregularly until 18 February, during which period I was able to observe it frequently and to photograph it.

The bird was slim and graceful, with long bright yellow legs and a slender black bill; the well-marbled pale superciliary stripes met in a characteristic "V" on the forehead; the white rump patch was square and the tail was white with narrow dark bars. The call was a soft plaintiff "cu" and when alarmed the bird uttered a more strident "klew" or mellow "teu". In late January I noticed a gap in the outer primaries of one wing and on 18 February this gap was no longer visible.

The bird was seen by at least 10 other observers, including C. Carter (who also photographed it), R. Casalis de Pury and R. Stjernstedt. Colour transparencies have been examined by P. J. Grant and R. J. Dowsett and my

description has been seen by A. J. Prater: all confirm identification. A. J. Prater tells me that the description suggests that the bird is most likely to have been a first-winter individual, but that at this time of year it is never easy positively to identify a bird as a first-winter individual.

Colour transparencies and detailed descriptions of all three Nearctic vagrants described here have been lodged at the Zoological Museum, Tring, Hertfordshire, England, and colour transparencies of the Lesser Yellowlegs and the 1978 Pectoral Sandpiper are on file at the Livingstone Museum, Zambia.

There have been few records of Nearctic waders from sub-Saharan Africa. Not surprisingly, the most frequently-recorded species is Pectoral Sandpiper, which is the most regularly-seen of these species in western Europe. K. D. Smith (*in* Moreau 1972) gives 6 records of Pectoral Sandpiper from localities south of the Sahara and there are records from Tree (1972) and Kemp (1972), so its occurrence in Zambia is not unexpected. However the only records of Lesser Yellowlegs given in Moreau (1972) are those of Keith (1968) from Uganda and of Wallace (1969) from Nigeria. G. C. Backhurst informs me that the Uganda record is rejected in the forthcoming *Birds of East Africa* (Britton *et al.*), so there is only one previous acceptable record of this species, which must be an extremely rare vagrant to this part of the continent.

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Additions to a discography of bird sound from the Neotropical Region

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This paper supplements that of Boswall and Freeman (1974). It lists commercially issued gramophone records and cassettes that include sound production by birds (or human mimicry of birds) recorded within the Neotropical zoogeographical region which have been published or have come to light since 1974. Copies are held at the British Library of Wildlife Sounds, 29 Exhibition Road, London S.W.7. Unpublished recordings may be held by any of the wildlife sound libraries of the world listed by Boswall